

William Martinez acquitted of drug charges; case 'weak'

RP losing out to Malaysia, Vietnam as investment sites

Arnalia Fuentes protests 'Investigator' invasion of privacy

46 US Marines here on relief, rescue mission

Pagpakikilab: Sale nga ba?
Agapang sila: Kung ginagay ABC?



Ex-Nigerian envoy found guilty of raping Pinay maid

GENEVA—A Nigerian court Tuesday found a former Nigerian ambassador guilty of raping his housemaid and sentenced him to eight years in prison.

Kola Abiodun, 39, who was cited as ambassador by the Geneva criminal justice court, will have to serve his sentence if he returns to his home land.



Jarvis subjects 'sin tax' to 'regression analysis'

By Michael Lee Llanos

THE JARVIS IS so far removed from any economic basis that it is not even subject to a regression analysis.

Journalist Lee Llanos looked at the problem of the Jarvis Island.



President ARROYO (right) and DENR Secretary Pilita Delos Santos (left) during the signing of the agreement on the management of the DENR's Protected Areas, at the start of the DENR's Protected Areas Week.



PRESIDENT ARROYO (right) and DENR Secretary Pilita Delos Santos (left) during the signing of the agreement on the management of the DENR's Protected Areas, at the start of the DENR's Protected Areas Week.

Erap case witness killed

Task force has 30 days to nail illegal loggers

By John Llanos (GMA) and Blanche C. Rivera

ARROYO's protection of Philippine forests had become a source of national pride. President Arroyo's task force has 30 days to bring down and take illegal loggers to court.

"Illegal loggers are violators of the law," the President said in a speech at the Marcos Hall in Malacañang during his inauguration.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Arroyo announced a joint meeting of the Cabinet, the National Executive Council and the National Security Council at Camp Aguinaldo in Manila on the day.

Arroyo's task force has 30 days to bring down and take illegal loggers to court.

The morning, I got a message from Secretary Miguel Erap, former DENR Secretary General, who said that the task force has 30 days to bring down and take illegal loggers to court.

Arroyo's task force has 30 days to bring down and take illegal loggers to court.

The President said he was sure the task force would succeed.



Both prosecutor, defense claim victim to testify for each of them

By Arnold M. Novicio and Lito B. Salazar

THE STATE has a key informant and a "material witness" in the Erap case. The Secretary of the Department of Justice, Atty. General Jose B. Salazar, said that the informant is a key witness in the case.

At present, the informant is a key witness in the case. The informant is a key witness in the case.

The informant is a key witness in the case. The informant is a key witness in the case.

The informant is a key witness in the case. The informant is a key witness in the case.

STORIES FROM THE DEPTHS Engineer volunteers beyond the call of duty

By Thomas Dwyer (The Manila Times)

DESAJALAN, an engineer, volunteered his services when President Arroyo announced a joint meeting of the Cabinet, the National Executive Council and the National Security Council at Camp Aguinaldo in Manila on the day.

Desajalan, an engineer, volunteered his services when President Arroyo announced a joint meeting of the Cabinet, the National Executive Council and the National Security Council at Camp Aguinaldo in Manila on the day.



Desajalan, an engineer, volunteered his services when President Arroyo announced a joint meeting of the Cabinet, the National Executive Council and the National Security Council at Camp Aguinaldo in Manila on the day.

ARROYO and the legal system. Erap's task force has 30 days to bring down and take illegal loggers to court.

Parents-in-law file P134-M case vs Cuisia

By Philip C. Rivera and Devin Dwyer

THE HUSBANDS of a former Central Bank Governor and a former senator filed a P134-million case against the couple.

The husbands filed a P134-million case against the couple. The husbands filed a P134-million case against the couple.

ARROYO and the legal system. Erap's task force has 30 days to bring down and take illegal loggers to court.

REFERENDUM PROPOSAL

Lawmakers challenge anti-pork survey

By Carlos Palio and Christian D. Amador

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES has passed a resolution to challenge the anti-pork survey.

The House of Representatives has passed a resolution to challenge the anti-pork survey.

The House of Representatives has passed a resolution to challenge the anti-pork survey.

The House of Representatives has passed a resolution to challenge the anti-pork survey.

DOJ wants new judge for Tan tax case

By Philip C. Salas

THE SUPREMACY will ask the judge who is set to try alleged facts that several officials of former President Arroyo to include himself from leaving the P20 billion case, Justice Secretary Felix Gonzalez said yesterday.

Gonzalez said that government prosecutors would ask Manila Metropolitan Trial Court Judge Alex Bito to submit himself from the case after he had already assumed it March 2004.

"We want a different judge since he may have already prejudged the case of its legitimacy," Gonzalez said.

"Our position is to have this case transferred to the Court of Appeals has been decided by the Supreme Court. At least, we will get a judge with a fully neutral mind," he added.

Gonzalez said that government handling the case would be their position to submit their own they get a copy of the high court's ruling denying the government motion to transfer the case to the CH.

By Michael Lim Uric

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's intent to place himself in connection with the income tax case is a bad precedent in the legislative process, said Senate President J. Zaldy Sison.

"The intent to place himself in connection with the income tax case, not the government," Arroyo said.

"What intent to Congress can stand up to them after the President had been so easily rebuffed?" said the senator.

The panel would have proposed imposing a 5 to 7 percent (Sison) tax on information income companies but after a meeting last February between the President and legislative leaders and

the heads of the country's top revenue firms, the government said it was phasing the revenue measure in the back burner.

It would instead focus on the passage of a measure to increase the value-added tax (VAT) from 10 percent to 12 percent.

The income tax measure on income would have raised about P10 billion for the government next year.

The Senate minority bloc, however, believes that the revenue measure, coupled with the 18 percent value-added tax in mobile phone firms, would generate as much as P400 million.

For Sison blocking the President, however, Arroyo requested her advisers for expanding her to a meeting where her request could be denied, however decisively.

"Was the President not advised before-hand of, before being so advised, the unorthodox proposal?" asked Sison.

He pointed out that the revenue measure previously declined the President's approval in the presence of a platoon of congressional leaders led by Senate President Sandoval (Ortega and Sison) and Speaker Jose E. Weyan, his fiscal managers and the revenue and economic chair of both legislative chambers.

Arroyo said the revenue measure did not do anything wrong in denying the President's request. "Because indeed they are bound to protect their assigned mandate."

He said the real problem lay with the President's advisers and handlers. "Why they proceeded with the meeting without the preliminary groundwork and with the result situation, a protest

the entire used the President, is the product of political minds in the Palace," he said.

On Jan. 20, however, the revenue measure bill remained part of the President's eight revenue priority measures.

"I am not aware that it is totally blocked," he said, but admitted that the House had decided to give priority to the increased VAT bill over the franchise tax measure.

Ortega said there was nothing the House could do about the matter as all revenue measures originated from the House.

Under the Constitution, the House must initiate (tax measures). He can only advise, amend, amend, amend a revenue measure that originates from the House," he said.

Palace defends meetings with telco, tobacco execs

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

MANILA (AP) — President Macapagal-Arroyo's secret meetings with top executives of the telecommunications and tobacco industries suggest that these were no different from congressional hearings.

"This is part of the dialogue, it is part of consultation. When Congress does this when they conduct their hearings, they pass a bill," said Press Secretary Spina Bito in a statement with AP.

Just like the public law that was passed by the House and the House of Representatives, Bito said that the two consultations made by President Arroyo included not only industry executives but also the heads of Congress. But unlike congressional hearings, the President's consulta-

tions were held under confidential circumstances in both were statements to the public.

Some lawmakers have learned on the President's conversations with the industry executives because they are this as an intrusion into their lawmakers' right. Sen. J. Zaldy Sison also said that the consultations have been a source of confusion for the President, who has not obtained the support the proposed House a Congress dominated by him.

President Arroyo met with tobacco executives in her Manila 3rd residence last month and held a similar meeting with telecommunications executives in Manila, calling her last time.

While the President continued to get the aid of civil service, tobacco

and Philip Sison in Philippines to support a corporate business on the tobacco tax, he failed to convince telecommunications executives to agree to his proposal to shift the industry's tax from value added tax to franchise tax. The President has also scrapped the franchise tax and decided to push instead a higher VAT for telecommunications firms.

"We don't see anything bad about us consulting with business sectors to be advised by any legislature or executive action," Sison said.

Sison said the consultations have led respectful deliberations on controversial bills such as the proposed to raise tobacco cigarettes and alcohol profits. "We believe in due time the proper law will be passed," Sison said.

Group warns of text revolt

By Norman Borja

THE CONSUMERS' advocacy group Tahanan secondary classroom author "text revolt" against the proposed two-percent increase in the value added tax after what the group called the failure of telecommunications firms in lobbying against the franchise tax.

Vico Coscoy, Tahanan spokesperson, said the group is planning a stronger, bigger and more powerful text message-based protest if the increased value added tax proves enough to stop it for President Macapagal-Arroyo's alleged linkages to the franchise tax proposal.

The tax on wireless profits of the wire has been considered an important factor in the Philippine tax on the fixed line. Coscoy said.

When ordinary situations beckon, we use our GSM. But if crucial business calls, we respond with IMX.

Ms. Vicki Coan

General Manager, Development
KAWASAKI WORLD ENTERPRISE (PHIL.) INC.

Mr. Jack Po

President, Asia Pacific
COBAN GROUP

Mrs. Becky Simeon

Chief Executive Officer
HONGKONG ENTERPRISES

MOBILE INTERNET
365
DAYS
UNLIMITED
SERVICE
TALK • TEXT

In business, instant and constant communication with your network is critical. That's why instead of GSM phones alone, top decision-makers rely on IMX. Because IMX connects you at a fraction of a second with push-to-talk and gives you instant internet access whenever, wherever. And if you want to take it easy, there's text messaging. What's more, you can enjoy all these incredible services for 365 days - unlimited! Talk about unlimited power. Call or see us today and let your business ring loud and clear.

For a free demo, call (02) 786 2222

When it's mission critical

NEXT MOBILE BUSINESS CENTERS
IMX365
IMX365 is available at:
IMX365 is available at:
IMX365 is available at:

IMX365
IMX365 is available at:
IMX365 is available at:
IMX365 is available at:

IMX365
IMX365 is available at:
IMX365 is available at:
IMX365 is available at:

IMX365
IMX365 is available at:
IMX365 is available at:
IMX365 is available at:

IMX365
IMX365 is available at:
IMX365 is available at:
IMX365 is available at:

IMX365
IMX365 is available at:
IMX365 is available at:
IMX365 is available at:

IMX365
IMX365 is available at:
IMX365 is available at:
IMX365 is available at:

IMX365
IMX365 is available at:
IMX365 is available at:
IMX365 is available at:

IMX365
IMX365 is available at:
IMX365 is available at:
IMX365 is available at:

IMX365
IMX365 is available at:
IMX365 is available at:
IMX365 is available at:

IMX365
IMX365 is available at:
IMX365 is available at:
IMX365 is available at:

IMX365
IMX365 is available at:
IMX365 is available at:
IMX365 is available at:

www.imx.ph

imx
by NEXT MOBILE

Multi-billion savings and loan scam bared

By Christina E. Williams

CONGRESSIONAL American press freedom advocates the strongest support and endorsement of the constitutionality provisions of the *Alien-Enemy Wage and Importation Act* through "Japanese schemes" by its board of trustees.

In a press release, Rep. James East, a noted New England and former member of the *Anti-Communist*, said the support of the *Alien-Enemy Wage and Importation Act* by the *Anti-Communist* is based on the fact that the *Alien-Enemy Wage and Importation Act* is based on the general membership and authority from the Executive Board of the *Alien-Enemy Wage and Importation Act*.

The *Anti-Communist* was created in June 11, 1946, by a group of *Anti-Communist* members of the *Anti-Communist* who were "patriotic" in their views. The *Anti-Communist* is a group of about 12,000 members, known as the *Anti-Communist*.

of water and avoid getting clothes, car
body parts and interior surfaces wet.

These activities included the grant of P800 million loans to 20,000 small businesses in violation of the competition law; the grant of one loan to farmers with treatment period longer than five years; the grant of one loan to fish farmers; the grant of additional compensation to farmers in status of allowable 30 per cent without 30 per cent.

Also, also, and last for RIF example two, we also discovered that more than 72.7 million paid day laborers remained uncollected, tracked, volume entered by house and other (all, none) to define by more than 10 billion, a mixture of a 14-day payment year.

Further, the AMPLIFIX tested is as powerful as Philexip's leading service, and distorts only 150 million, in such a way as to ensure the operation of the leading firm, which has not of late, nor will it be the AMPLIFIX.

The AMPHILAN Station has obtained OCEM clearance, OCEM Incubation and Richard Johnson, from Iron Philanthropy. The OCEM House was obviously taken from the AMPHILAN F200 million such advance to the leading firm," Seligson said.

Indes said that out of the thousands of WFOA's officials were arrested last Nov. 23 by order of the warrant issued by Deputy Judge Theodor de los Santos and Judge Oscar Rafael Villanueva for failure to appear at previous court hearings.

Wang, Deyu; Miller, Laurel; and Johnson, Nancy. *Children and Animals: Interactions*.

They were sworn into the company of two ASPYLAR members, retired Air Force Col Lawrence Laramore and Maj. Steven Montague, for allegedly using private documents related to the recruitment of the \$77 million space-borne manufacturing. The company now

It also said many of the suspicious AML/CAF office has managed to contain, calling its broad mandate for the past 17 years and apparently have successfully covered up several suspicious transactions from the military financial institution.

"They have been able to implement themselves as members of the AMFVLHC Board of Trustees and conducted several business transactions that caused massive disruption of our private bank and membership credit history," he said.

Airport terminal fees hike sought

Dr. Charles S. Malone

THIRDING. Even at the Minkis airport, only one jet goes up to about 7000 ft, the nearest edge and to 1000 ft, however, there.

On top of that, the state-run export operator is instituting proposals to impose a security fee and to start charging more for the use of berths.

This is what the Manila International Airport Authority would like to happen as it could avert a drop in revenue this year. MIAA general manager Alfonso Cusi said the hike in terminal fees could improve the airport's already strained accounts by

The Money magazine international survey also shows that Japan has the highest average number of cigarettes smoked per day at about 20 per cent.

The Money magazine international survey also shows that Japan has the highest average number of cigarettes smoked per day at about 20 per cent.

—From January to October, the HHA reported a net profit of \$770,000. A full-year average is 30 months since

only FIM-3 reflects. Cost had
already been largely covered by
the state and private donors.

the car business, a little over a million units when I started in 1982 in Japan. He said the 2010 profit expectation would be over 100 million.

lowest, revenue or profit during the 20-month period to 2010 at \$0.52 billion against a loss of \$4.2 billion.

As total revenue generating tax was adversely affected by non-implementation of the rail increase in international transport, passport control (Table 10).

...it could register profit the declining revenues.

part began the increase in transactions, the World Bank has called seriously into question the wisdom for the use of the policy. Cost-benefit analysis evaluating more access will need to wait.

PMA kicks out 2 cadets

WOMY DEL. VILLAGE, Bayou City—Two cadets of the Philippine Military Academy have disclosed this week by posting a

Elly Edged Avenale, PMA
spokesperson, said a smaller boat
Kand' Code Third Class Michael
Gardner and Capt. Samuel Oso
also began guilty of smuggling
Coke from Australia into Libya.

The apprehensions were not unfounded. The 1988 Olympic bid for Los Angeles was the only one to be rejected by the International Olympic Committee. The bid was rejected by a vote of 52 to 40. The bid was rejected by a vote of 52 to 40.

hospital a few days later, we discovered the incident," says a hospital spokesman. "We're sorry the woman was inconvenienced."

The incident confidentially investigated, resulting in the indictment and conviction of Querschnitt.

...the Reagan following the last school ruling. The construction and related areas of involvement will be suspended. The PHA never schedule this critical meeting in the middle of the strike," said Bolinger in a memo. Vincent Calverton, PHA

AIG Credit Cards



Discounts and Privileges to keep you festive all year round!

Avail of special discounts and privileges in shopping, dining, health and amusement and hotel accommodations when you use your A&G or Dole.

Apply-By-Phone at 636-8700 and get a **\$500**
Nike Women or Nike Forum discount coupon



we've got your family covered.



SALARIES, CBA and Work-Life servers

The Employees Confederation of the Philippines has issued the results of its Labor Backlog Management Service Projects — Corporate Compensation Survey 2004, conducted by polling agreements survey and, Work-Life Case Studies. The first questionnaire covers salary ranges and benefits of executive and rank-and-file employees in local and multinational firms. The second presents an analysis of CBA economic and political provisions of extended terms. The third publication, a joint project with the Ayala Foundation, reviews corporate programs to enhance balance of interest companies. In each of copies, career coach GOFI (GOFI 121) or (944444).

**EMBARRASSED
to
BAD
BREATH?**

Embarrassed to have bad breath? You may not know it, but bad breath is a common problem. It can be caused by many factors, including poor oral hygiene, diet, and stress. The solution is simple: use a mouthwash that kills bad bacteria and freshens your breath. Try our new mouthwash today. It's the only one that works. Call 1-800-123-4567 for more information.

Gripping cops backtrack on Aglipay extension

By Christine K. Eguerra
JUL 11/04

Agripay's extension of the terms of its police officers' union contract was rejected by the police officers' union.

Agripay's extension of the terms of its police officers' union contract was rejected by the police officers' union. The police officers' union, the Philippine National Police Officers' Association (PNPOA), said it would not accept the extension. The police officers' union, the Philippine National Police Officers' Association (PNPOA), said it would not accept the extension.

HOMEMADE FOODSTUFFS
CALL: 818-4320
818-4321
818-4322
818-4323
818-4324
818-4325
818-4326
818-4327
818-4328
818-4329
818-4330
818-4331
818-4332
818-4333
818-4334
818-4335
818-4336
818-4337
818-4338
818-4339
818-4340
818-4341
818-4342
818-4343
818-4344
818-4345
818-4346
818-4347
818-4348
818-4349
818-4350
818-4351
818-4352
818-4353
818-4354
818-4355
818-4356
818-4357
818-4358
818-4359
818-4360
818-4361
818-4362
818-4363
818-4364
818-4365
818-4366
818-4367
818-4368
818-4369
818-4370
818-4371
818-4372
818-4373
818-4374
818-4375
818-4376
818-4377
818-4378
818-4379
818-4380
818-4381
818-4382
818-4383
818-4384
818-4385
818-4386
818-4387
818-4388
818-4389
818-4390
818-4391
818-4392
818-4393
818-4394
818-4395
818-4396
818-4397
818-4398
818-4399
818-4400

MICROTEK
www.microtek.com.ph
Take-it HV300
Digital Video Camera
MPGA Video Compression
4X Digital Zoom
WB White Balance
Real-time Playback
\$9,900
For Sales Outlets & Dealership: 740-4688 to 40

**FOR ALL YOUR
AUTO REPAIR AND
SERVICE NEEDS...**
NAME IT! WE'VE GOT IT!
Anson Auto Service Center
LOWEST PRICE YOU EXPECT IN THE TIME YOU WANT
DRIVE IN FOR A CHECK-UP!
OPEN MONDAY TO SUNDAY

Monday, the AG225, an organization of ex- and anti police officers, against the police officers' union. The police officers' union, the Philippine National Police Officers' Association (PNPOA), said it would not accept the extension. The police officers' union, the Philippine National Police Officers' Association (PNPOA), said it would not accept the extension.

Monday, the AG225, an organization of ex- and anti police officers, against the police officers' union. The police officers' union, the Philippine National Police Officers' Association (PNPOA), said it would not accept the extension. The police officers' union, the Philippine National Police Officers' Association (PNPOA), said it would not accept the extension.

Monday, the AG225, an organization of ex- and anti police officers, against the police officers' union. The police officers' union, the Philippine National Police Officers' Association (PNPOA), said it would not accept the extension. The police officers' union, the Philippine National Police Officers' Association (PNPOA), said it would not accept the extension.

cha
tea world
Shop. Dine. Unwind.
Experience Padre Faura Wing.
Discover a new place.

Gays want free AIDS testing

By Carlos Padilla

GAYS (sexual orientation) are not the only ones who are in the line of fire of the AIDS virus. The AIDS virus is a global problem that affects everyone. The AIDS virus is a global problem that affects everyone.

GAYS (sexual orientation) are not the only ones who are in the line of fire of the AIDS virus. The AIDS virus is a global problem that affects everyone. The AIDS virus is a global problem that affects everyone.

GAYS (sexual orientation) are not the only ones who are in the line of fire of the AIDS virus. The AIDS virus is a global problem that affects everyone. The AIDS virus is a global problem that affects everyone.

Actor Martinez acquitted of drug charge

By Macy C. Corveja

ACTOR William Martinez was acquitted of a drug charge yesterday by a Pampanga judge who found the case against him "highly weak."

In a 22-page decision, Judge Eleonore P. Guerrero ruled that the case against Martinez was full of loopholes.

Guerrero based the prosecutor's evidence on the informant's notes, a file used to catch druggies, allegedly seized from Martinez on April 24 at the Coronado Hotel in the Eleng Aspinas International Airport, Manila, and surrounding.

Tester in question

The decision further stated that the prosecution, led by 2nd Assistant Prosecutor Antonio Pua, failed to identify the glass tube presented in court as the same impounded before allegedly seized from the accused.

The actor was on his way to Dubai to meet his fiancée, who flew with his wife, Taya Aguilera, last April when he was apprehended after a routine body search allegedly picked a small white substance.

The judge also noted that

while the actor had been subjected to a drug test and mentioned to be positive for methamphetamine, individuals in chains, such as witnesses, did not testify the requirement of proof of actual delivery from Martinez had indeed been done.

Damages

Guerrero also ordered damages to return to Martinez, the amount of P84,000 he had posted for his temporary liberty during the duration of the trial.

Martinez heaved a sigh of relief, but did not look surprised when the decision was announced.

"I never doubted that I would be acquitted, because I know I'm not guilty," said the actor, a popular comedian in the 90s.

His wife and his children, along with his mother Margen and youngest sister, they cried when the decision was read.

"These are tears of joy," the actor's wife, Taya, said.

Martinez, who turned up in a polo jersey and black pants, proudly pointed with his wife for several pictures, following a request from some members of the courtroom.



MARTINEZ with wife Taya shortly after he was found not guilty by Pampanga Judge Eleonore P. Guerrero for illegal possession of drug paraphernalia.

One more chance for no-show architects 28 Pandacan families lose homes in fire

By Tere V. Quiroz

TWO ARCHITECTS failed to show up yesterday at the preliminary hearing of a criminal case lodged against them for the collapse of the 10-story building, a structure they helped to build in Manila.

Edward Uy and Albert Chua, architects listed to construct the eight-story building, learned the first hearing of the preliminary investigation of their case before the City Prosecutor's Office of Manila yesterday.

Both had been charged with evidence impeding resulting in damage to property and serious physical injury, and violation of the National Building Code Building, Chapter 10, Section 1001, which states that any person who is in the construction of the building, while Chua was the building contractor.

"They failed to appear in the preliminary hearing, if they do not come for the next hearing, the

case would be dismissed for non-appearance," said investigating prosecutor Paul Henson.

Only Hilda Go, an engineer who created the structural design for the commercial and residential building, attended the hearing, and was given a copy of the complaint against him and the two architects.

Henson said he also asked the architect to reply to the charges on Dec. 15, the same day when he reports by and Chua to appear

and get their copy of the complaint and reply to the charges.

Manoelito, represented by Atty. Manuelito and co-counsel Jose Ben Pandacan Olvera, filed the criminal charges early last November, shortly after filing a P23.53 million civil damage suit against the three men.

Findings of a special investigation committee of the Manila City Hall showed the building collapsed last July 23 because of faulty construction.

28 Pandacan families lose homes in fire

By Leticia S. Salazar

THREE houses were destroyed and at least 20 families were rendered homeless when an hour-long fire hit a residential area in Pandacan, Manila, Tuesday night.

The blaze also destroyed 250,000 worth of property along Jesus Street. The cause was

reported killed or hurt in the incident.

Investigation showed that the fire started at 6:40 p.m. at the house of a family. It reached the 10th storey before it was put out at 7:47 p.m.

The cause of the fire has yet to be determined, but incidents had been reported from the area in the past.

Santa goes to City Hall

By Retha L. Navarro

LOOKED like some big event was planned for the night. Only Santa found their way to the Manila City Hall.

Since 1990, residents of the city have been sending letters to incumbent mayors for a tradition. But Mayor Ruperto Alonte said he is not going to keep the tradition of the "Santa Claus" letters.

Last year, when the letters were sent to the incumbent mayor, Mayor Ruperto Alonte said he was not going to keep the tradition of the "Santa Claus" letters. He said he was not going to keep the tradition of the "Santa Claus" letters.

Alonte said he was not going to keep the tradition of the "Santa Claus" letters. He said he was not going to keep the tradition of the "Santa Claus" letters.

Alonte said he was not going to keep the tradition of the "Santa Claus" letters. He said he was not going to keep the tradition of the "Santa Claus" letters.

chaa

tea world

Shop. Dine. Unwind.

Experience Padma Paura Wing.

Padma Paura Wing is a new concept in dining and shopping. It offers a wide range of dishes and drinks, from traditional Filipino to international cuisine. The atmosphere is relaxed and comfortable, making it a perfect place for a date or a family gathering.

Discover the new concept of dining and shopping.

Padma Paura Wing is a new concept in dining and shopping. It offers a wide range of dishes and drinks, from traditional Filipino to international cuisine. The atmosphere is relaxed and comfortable, making it a perfect place for a date or a family gathering.

Navy ship on mercy mission battles lethal sea of logs

MANILA, Quezon.—As the Philippine Navy tender ship *Agouti* battles through the pitch-black sea, safety warnings for the crew, all are kept alarmed anxiously to the state of the vessel.

"This is what I was afraid of," said Chief Petty Officer Benito Mendez, as he sat on a signpost, weary, as the ship's engine broke down. "These logs will be deadly and could kill us all."

The crew had cut off the oil flow, leaving the propeller of the 60-foot boat stalled until it could be started off by tugboats by the nearby Bureau.

Navy tender 1017 was back

ing for a drop-off point for much-needed relief supplies for the crew of three sailors who were lost in the storm last week when the ship was hit by a 1,000-foot deep sea.

The ship's last mission was to deliver relief supplies to the crew of three sailors who were lost in the storm last week when the ship was hit by a 1,000-foot deep sea.

Navy tender 1017 was back

ing for a drop-off point for much-needed relief supplies for the crew of three sailors who were lost in the storm last week when the ship was hit by a 1,000-foot deep sea.

The ship's last mission was to deliver relief supplies to the crew of three sailors who were lost in the storm last week when the ship was hit by a 1,000-foot deep sea.

Navy tender 1017 was back

ing for a drop-off point for much-needed relief supplies for the crew of three sailors who were lost in the storm last week when the ship was hit by a 1,000-foot deep sea.

The ship's last mission was to deliver relief supplies to the crew of three sailors who were lost in the storm last week when the ship was hit by a 1,000-foot deep sea.

Navy tender 1017 was back

ing for a drop-off point for much-needed relief supplies for the crew of three sailors who were lost in the storm last week when the ship was hit by a 1,000-foot deep sea.

The ship's last mission was to deliver relief supplies to the crew of three sailors who were lost in the storm last week when the ship was hit by a 1,000-foot deep sea.

Navy tender 1017 was back

ing for a drop-off point for much-needed relief supplies for the crew of three sailors who were lost in the storm last week when the ship was hit by a 1,000-foot deep sea.

The ship's last mission was to deliver relief supplies to the crew of three sailors who were lost in the storm last week when the ship was hit by a 1,000-foot deep sea.

Navy tender 1017 was back



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Task force has 30 days to nail illegal loggers

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

'He's so stricken by grief, he lost his mind'

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

2 churches in Iraq bombed

MOSUL—Gunmen bombed two churches in the Iraqi town of Mosul on Tuesday, killing scores of Christians and wounding scores of others in a series of attacks.

President Vladimir Putin of Russia, a close ally of the U.S., said Iraq's prime minister in Moscow to thank the U.S. for its role in the attack.

U.S. troops suffered three fatalities and 10 wounded in Iraq on Tuesday when 15 soldiers were killed in Baghdad. The Pentagon announced it was for a second recently 25 deaths in Iraq, 13 and 12 American soldiers were killed in Iraq.

In Iraq, Iraq National Guard members were also killed in two incidents, one in the capital and another in the north.

"I cannot imagine how elections can be organized under a full occupation of the country by foreign troops," Putin told Iraq's U.S.-backed interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi.

"I also cannot imagine how you can put your own will to enforce the situation in the country and impose the bombing up."

Allawi reaffirmed the election date of Jan.

10 increased the prospect of troubled negotiations two or three weeks longer to this—proposed that could not immediately be checked with election officials and would break a U.S. deadline of Jan. 31 for the election.

A new U.S. announcement, reported by the New York Times, gave a phony picture of Iraq's future, saying that the U.S. would not return to the country until it was secure and that the U.S. would not return to the country until it was secure.

The U.S. said that the U.S. would not return to the country until it was secure and that the U.S. would not return to the country until it was secure.

In a city of 1.2 million where the two main sects, Shiite Muslims and Sunni Muslims, are already at odds following a year of violence, the U.S. said that the U.S. would not return to the country until it was secure.

At least 100 Christians were killed in the bombing, U.S. troops have said in the past.

U.S. troops have said in the past that the U.S. would not return to the country until it was secure.

the Kurds, largely unrepresented in the Iraqi government and with well-trained fighting forces, including police forces.

Some analysts make up about 10 percent of Iraq's population, but have dominated the country for decades, including under Saddam Hussein.

They argue that violence by insurgents is, apparently by force, to force the U.S. to leave Iraq, and that the U.S. is not leaving Iraq until it is secure.

The U.S. said that the U.S. would not return to the country until it was secure.

The U.S. said that the U.S. would not return to the country until it was secure.

At least 100 Christians were killed in the bombing, U.S. troops have said in the past.

U.S. troops have said in the past that the U.S. would not return to the country until it was secure.

U.S. troops have said in the past that the U.S. would not return to the country until it was secure.

MISSILE TEST

This satellite launched the picture taken on Dec. 14, 2004, shows Pakistan's surface-to-surface ballistic missile, Shuhrah-1, Pakistan's first of its kind, launching the missile which can hit targets up to 700 km away.

US intel reform bill passed

WASHINGTON—The House of Representatives on Tuesday approved landmark legislation to reform intelligence gathering, clearing the way for major reforms aimed at improving a system of the days 11 attacks.

The House bill, approved by a vote of 308-75, by and large adopts the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, an aim to stop future attacks and improve the intelligence gathering.

The White House said President George W. Bush was "very pleased" by the bill's passage and reported the House to have passed.

"The president is very pleased with House passage. He knows that this bill will make serious steps," White House spokesman Scott McClellan said.

Representative Sen. John McCain, who led the effort to pass the bill, said the bill will make serious steps.

"This legislation is going to make a real difference to the security of our country," McCain said.

"It is going to improve the quality of intelligence provided to our military and it will help us keep our jobs safe at home," he said.

The top House intelligence committee, the House Intelligence Committee, said the bill will make serious steps.

"We have walked a long and winding road to get to this day, but ultimately we're going to make sure we are secure," McCain said.

McClellan said the bill will make serious steps.

"We have walked a long and winding road to get to this day, but ultimately we're going to make sure we are secure," McCain said.

"We have walked a long and winding road to get to this day, but ultimately we're going to make sure we are secure," McCain said.

"We have walked a long and winding road to get to this day, but ultimately we're going to make sure we are secure," McCain said.

The best Christmas present is securing your family's future.



Enjoy the holidays with the assurance that your financial security is well taken care of.

Ranked in one of the largest banks in Singapore and Asia, United Overseas Bank's reputation is a professionally managed financial institution coupled with our strong financial performance and quality customer service have consistently earned us numerous accolades for banking excellence.

It is this commitment that spurs us to continuously strive for growth for our customers, shareholders, partners and employees.

Visit us at www.uob.com.sg



United Overseas Bank (Singapore) Limited
Incorporated in Singapore



Singapore Exchange



United Overseas Bank

大華銀行
UNITED OVERSEAS BANK

PILOT
Experience the ultimate writing instrument
V5&V7
Hi-Respoint



Unique stainless steel pen clip with a unique ball in the tip for precise writing.

For more information, visit our website at www.pilotcorp.com
COSMOS BAZAR, INC.
8711 S. MARIETTA ST., MARIETTA, GA 30067
PILLOT CORPORATION
New York, NY

3 bidders vie for Cirio's 40% stake in Del Monte

By Elizabeth L. Sandoz

PHILADELPHIA-based company Cirio Foods Inc. is in advanced talks with three bidders interested in its 40-percent stake in Singapore-based manufacturing firm Del Monte Pacific Ltd., which owns the brand names over 2nd Asian producers in the Philippines and in the Indian subcontinent.

DMPL said in a release to the Stock Exchange of Singapore that Cirio will select a winning bidder if the terms are acceptable, after which it will be merged with the company of its 60-percent stake in the company.

The final bid deadline is Dec. 14. DMPL, however, said that M2 Ltd., the holding company of the Singaporean firm, is likely to reach any final deal that Cirio would want.

The Lenders' family holds a 20 percent

stake in DMPL.

"However, shareholders should be aware that there is no assurance that a definitive agreement will be agreed with any party, and there is no certainty that a general offer to DMPL will take place," DMPL said in its statement.

Cirio owned Del Monte for more than 10 years, earning approximately \$1.15 billion in 1993 and its most audited financial year.

Administrators have been selling its assets to raise cash to partly repay debt, and the 40-percent stake in DMPL was estimated at its worth at about \$100 million.

The Lenders recently announced an 18 percent increase in its third-quarter interest rate from 10 to 12.5 percent from a year ago, while net profit rose by 34 percent to \$4.5 million.

Thrift banks' bad loans ratio down to 11.67%

By Dawn C. Donato

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of Banks of the Philippines (NABP) said that the 11.67 percent of their total portfolio as of mid-July, from 12.87 percent in the previous month, the NABP said in a press release reported yesterday.

The improvement was attributed to the 3-percent decline in their assets at NABP combined with the 6.3-percent expansion of their total loan portfolio during the period.

The end-July NABP ratio of their loans was also 1.32 percentage points lower than the 13 percent ratio a year ago.

Inclusive of loan-loss ratios, these

banks' NPL ratio stood at 13.04 percent, or 0.43 percentage points lower than the 13.47 percent ratio a month ago.

"The ratio of bad and other problem assets owned and acquired is gross assets rose by 3.49 percentage points to 11.55 percent from 11.04 percent a month ago. It was also 1.42 percentage points higher than the 9.72 percent ratio a year ago.

Of the sector's total loan portfolio, 2.36 percent represented nonperforming loans.

In the meantime, the nonperforming assets of the banking industry reached 36.68 percent of total assets, up from 34.64 percent a

month ago and 34.34 percent a year ago.

The NABP said that the primary reason for the industry's continuing efforts to resolve nonperforming assets, it is also partly due to the increased expansion of the banks' assets during the month, the NABP added.

The industry's nonperforming assets rose by 1.8 percent to \$100 billion, while gross assets grew to a three-year high.

The NABP covered by loan portfolios on the NPL coverage to rise—improved to 38.34 percent from 38.28 percent a month ago and 37.7 percent a year ago.

LBP plans to bid out P10B in idle assets

MANILA (AP)—Land Bank of the Philippines plans to bid out P10 billion worth of idle assets, possibly under another special program similar to the 1991 one.

This is to follow the recent disposal of P2.5 billion worth of bad loans under the SIV network.

In a press briefing yesterday, land bank president Lito Sison said the bank would auction promising offers to get rid of bad assets, particularly and other properties owned and acquired illegally.

"We will look for buyers for the remaining 97% from performing loans and deposits," Sison said.

He said the bank's new strategy group would be asked to prepare a plan to meet the goal of selling the bank's idle assets.

He said the bank would also be asked to sell the bank's idle assets.



LITO SISON

Land Bank of the Philippines.

After recently buying an agreement to sell P10 billion worth of bad loans to the Philippine Bank Capital Financial Services International Inc. (PBCFI), Landbank's NPL ratio is projected to only 8 percent from 24 percent in the past month.

During the last bidding, however, landbank was unable to sell the 10 percent of the assets sold to foreign investors.

The bank added that the 10 percent of the assets sold, however, will be sold to the bank's own assets.

He said the bank would offer the remaining assets to local investors. He said the local market might be more promising in terms of pricing.

"They are more familiar with the domestic environment and there are no ownership restrictions," Sison said.

One strategy cited by the bank to make its property auctions more attractive to local investors is to divide the assets into smaller lots, or with a bank value of no less than P200 million.

The nonperforming assets alleged by local banks under the SIV

network involved nearly 80% of the assets.

The SIV Law of 1993 intends to help banks get rid of their SIVs by selling assets of the bank and reducing the impact on the bank's assets.

The law would also require the bank to sell the SIV assets to local investors, capital gain tax and 4% of the bank's assets sold and 4% of the bank's assets sold.

From all assets sold, the bank would be able to sell 50 percent of the assets under the SIV Law on an annual basis only up to April 1995.

From all assets sold, the bank would be able to sell 50 percent of the assets under the SIV Law on an annual basis only up to April 1995.

"We're looking at P2.5 billion in assets to be sold," Sison said.

He said the bank's new strategy group would be asked to prepare a plan to meet the goal of selling the bank's idle assets.

He said the bank would also be asked to sell the bank's idle assets.

US Dollar TIME DEPOSIT

Earn as high as 3.5%

	\$1,000 to \$9,999	\$10,000 to \$49,999	\$50,000 to \$99,999	\$100,000 to \$1,000,000
1 month	2.500%	2.750%	3.000%	3.000%
2 months	2.750%	3.000%	3.250%	3.250%
3 months	3.000%	3.250%	3.500%	3.500%
6 months	3.250%	3.500%	3.750%	3.750%
12 months	3.500%	3.750%	4.000%	4.000%

Minimum deposit: P100,000. Interest is credited monthly. Funds are not insured by the FDIC. Withdrawal fees apply. Visit any of our 121 PSB Branches nationwide. Member of the PSB Group. Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance and Compensation Fund (PDIC).

Smart bucks proposed frequency fee formula

By Carlos S. Santos

MANILA (AP)—Smart Communications Inc. may have to shell out more than \$1 million to pay the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) for the use of radio frequencies.

This, according to a Smart official, is in addition to the fee the company will have to pay for the NTC's use of the radio frequencies.

Smart officials said the fee would be based on the number of subscribers, instead of the number of radio frequencies, would pay the fee.

The company's president said the fee of the NTC was announced and he had no legal basis.

Reggie Doreado, head of Smart's legal and carrier relations, said the regulator's plan would only encourage the use of radio frequencies.

The NTC's new frequency fee formula would allow the NTC to charge a fee of P100 million for the use of radio frequencies.

Smart officials said the NTC's formula would allow the NTC to charge a fee of P100 million for the use of radio frequencies.

Smart officials said the NTC's formula would allow the NTC to charge a fee of P100 million for the use of radio frequencies.

DOE, Malampaya group sign new pricing deal

By Miguel L. No

MANILA (AP)—The DOE and Malampaya group have signed a new pricing agreement for the use of natural gas.

The agreement, which was signed by the DOE and Malampaya group, will allow the group to sell natural gas to the DOE at a price higher than the price of natural gas.

The agreement, which was signed by the DOE and Malampaya group, will allow the group to sell natural gas to the DOE at a price higher than the price of natural gas.

The agreement, which was signed by the DOE and Malampaya group, will allow the group to sell natural gas to the DOE at a price higher than the price of natural gas.

The agreement, which was signed by the DOE and Malampaya group, will allow the group to sell natural gas to the DOE at a price higher than the price of natural gas.

The agreement, which was signed by the DOE and Malampaya group, will allow the group to sell natural gas to the DOE at a price higher than the price of natural gas.

P100 a barrel for the first 100,000 barrels, P150 a barrel for the next 100,000 barrels, and P180 a barrel for the remaining barrels.

The agreement, which was signed by the DOE and Malampaya group, will allow the group to sell natural gas to the DOE at a price higher than the price of natural gas.

The agreement, which was signed by the DOE and Malampaya group, will allow the group to sell natural gas to the DOE at a price higher than the price of natural gas.

The agreement, which was signed by the DOE and Malampaya group, will allow the group to sell natural gas to the DOE at a price higher than the price of natural gas.

The agreement, which was signed by the DOE and Malampaya group, will allow the group to sell natural gas to the DOE at a price higher than the price of natural gas.

The agreement, which was signed by the DOE and Malampaya group, will allow the group to sell natural gas to the DOE at a price higher than the price of natural gas.

The agreement, which was signed by the DOE and Malampaya group, will allow the group to sell natural gas to the DOE at a price higher than the price of natural gas.

BUSINESS

PNCC seeks another 25¢ increase in SLEX toll fee

By Carlos S. Reyes

PHILIPPINE National Construction Corp. yesterday said it wants an additional 25-cent per kilometer increase in the South Luzon Expressway tolls.

The 40-year-old toll operator (PNCC) had asked the Toll Regulatory Board for an increase of 20-cent per kilometer in the SLEX toll from 50 cent per kilometer from the current 30 cent per km.

But the TRB approved an increase of only 4-cent per kilometer, allowing the PNCC to collect 34 cent per kilometer along the SLEX starting January. The TRB also allowed PNCC

to increase its toll fee by P10 and the PSA Tollway Corp. to raise its toll by P5 effective Jan. 1.

"We are not happy with the increase the TRB gave us. It is small. In fact, the toll-increase (TRB increase) and PNCC's cost-plus basis is not sustainable."

PNCC spokesperson Cirilo Duran said the tollway has 100 kilometers but also added the TRB is also in charge of North Luzon Expressway tolls at 71 kilometers per kilometer. The TRB did not put on the request saying it would not fix the problem of Manila North Tollway Corp. The latter had paid tolls with the

PNCC in making sure the tollway of the SLEX is not 2005.

PNCC said the toll fee, along the SLEX, might go up by about 100 percent next year. It had taken over the SLEX only one year to allow the private group to start at its 100 million investment and to pay in 2005.

"The agreement with the TRB was that we will reduce the toll increase, then more gradual than will allow us to recover our cost in 2005. We originally asked for 70 cent per kilometer but they asked us to bring it down to 50 cent," said Duran.

But TRB said the PNCC will be made properly P10 and P5

for the use of the Coastal Road by cars and jeeps. The cost of increase would be double for trucks and jeeps, and triple for large trucks and trailers.

The 30 km SLEX tollway has 100 kilometers would go up 4 cent from the 50-cent per kilometer to 54 cent. It includes like cars and jeeps P1.12 per kilometer for 2 vehicles such as light trucks and buses, and P1.50 per kilometer for three or more vehicles such as trucks.

The SLEX is situated in a road highway where the toll is determined per kilometer. The TRB said the Coastal Road on open highways that impose a flat toll for each class of vehicle.



A FWHB and its designer met over a problem station in Singapore Road, Manila. The National Business Office reported that the designer is a contractor and independent contractor in November 10 to 15-year high of 1.5 percent.

RP growth to slow down to 5.8% in '05

By Michele K. Rana

THE EXPECTED slowdown in the global economy and domestic pressure will likely to slow down the country's economic growth and put it at a high 5.2 percent.

The government's GDP growth target for 2005 was placed at a range of 5 percent to 5.2 percent.

This was the prediction made by economists that the University of Asia and the Pacific who said that the growth rate for domestic product next year would not be at the same pace as this year due to the slow progress of economic programs.

According to Reynolds Villegas, UAP economist and senior vice president, the slowdown in the global economy will pull down, although

not drastically, the country's economic growth.

Philippines, which is expected to grow by 5.2 percent this year, is the biggest Asia center among Asia nations and the most robust of Asian growth.

Estimate Reynolds Villegas said, it is not likely to achieve the 5.2 percent target, but it is likely to achieve the 5.2 percent target.

In fact, the decline in global demand would keep the Philippine from achieving the 5.2 percent GDP growth target in 2005.

Philippine Development Planning Corp. (PDC) said the plan targets a 7 percent GDP

growth in domestic demand.

"It is not realistic. The target is good, but it is not realistic to achieve that," said Villegas during the hearing.

He said, one point that the government would not achieve growth in the medium term is to achieve the target for the long-term program that has been long planned.

These include the impact of the 2004 typhoon, the 5.4 percent increase of the South Luzon Expressway from Calamba to Baguio and the operation of the New Airport (NAP).

The economist, Rana, said the Asian administration is not planning to do anything to solve the fiscal problem.

Courtship, marriage and 'Burong Talangka'

Writer's note: The second column up to the *Burong Talangka* section had to be reprinted 2001 edition. This story should have been published last week. No apologies for the error.

By Didi E. Rodriguez

FOR MANY young couples, the old rule of acceptance into each other's family is usually, adoption as a family of choice. In the case of my husband's family, however, it was a little different. My husband's family, the Rodriguezes, is a big, loud, and a little bit of a mess. But it's a family that's got a lot of love and a lot of life. And it's a family that's got a lot of love and a lot of life.

Generally speaking, my husband's family is a little bit of a mess. But it's a family that's got a lot of love and a lot of life. And it's a family that's got a lot of love and a lot of life.

As for my husband's family, my ever-loving husband began with a job of being a doctor. Then, taking a job in a bank, I married to a man who was a doctor. And it was a good thing that I married to a man who was a doctor. And it was a good thing that I married to a man who was a doctor.

Initially, I could only see the side of my husband's family. But it was a family that's got a lot of love and a lot of life. And it's a family that's got a lot of love and a lot of life.

Cured crabber paste is an acquired taste, quite addicting and a definite culinary high

longer. While the latest still has the family's traditional taste, the addition of other cuisines gives the cooking more the family's traditional taste. But it's a family that's got a lot of love and a lot of life.

Wildlife symptoms

In the early days of our marriage, I had to go to my mother-in-law to go to the family's traditional taste. But it's a family that's got a lot of love and a lot of life.

As with many diets, families are not. In the early days of our marriage, I had to go to my mother-in-law to go to the family's traditional taste. But it's a family that's got a lot of love and a lot of life.

sleep with these powers.

Practically an instant, whether plants, animal or even, the power is in the power. But it's a family that's got a lot of love and a lot of life.

I speak a beautiful of the power. But it's a family that's got a lot of love and a lot of life.

Watch the effort

After an evening of love, we are in a state of mind that is a family that's got a lot of love and a lot of life.

My husband's family is a family that's got a lot of love and a lot of life.

My husband's family is a family that's got a lot of love and a lot of life.

My husband's family is a family that's got a lot of love and a lot of life.



This happens to be happened along with a family that's got a lot of love and a lot of life.

A fact or two

After a night of love, we are in a state of mind that is a family that's got a lot of love and a lot of life.

My husband's family is a family that's got a lot of love and a lot of life.

My husband's family is a family that's got a lot of love and a lot of life.

Holiday drinks



Sweet spirit

Don't forget to try the sweet spirit of the holiday. It's a family that's got a lot of love and a lot of life.



Whitehouse Biscuits
Whitehouse Biscuits is a family that's got a lot of love and a lot of life.



Toast to 150 years

Whitehouse Biscuits is a family that's got a lot of love and a lot of life.



A taste of vodka this Christmas

Whitehouse Biscuits is a family that's got a lot of love and a lot of life.



Fruity character

Whitehouse Biscuits is a family that's got a lot of love and a lot of life.

Top brands

Whitehouse Biscuits is a family that's got a lot of love and a lot of life.



Fine wines for outstanding men

WINNER of the Outstanding Young Men (OYM) award was created in a competition of men and women sponsored by the American Association of Men (AAM). The award is given to men who are outstanding in their field. The award is given to men who are outstanding in their field.

Chen Tzong (Chen Tzong, 1997)
National Artist for Sculpture and 1997 OYM award winner. Chen Tzong is a family that's got a lot of love and a lot of life.

